

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-05 CU-02  
/073 W

-----022917 011426Z /43

R 011144Z JUL 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4195  
INFO AMEMBASSY WARSAW  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
AMEMBASSY SOFIA  
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
AMCONSUL MUNICH  
USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, RO  
SUBJECT: CEAUSESCU'S SPEECH TO RCP PLENUM

1. SUMMARY: IN HIS JUNE 29 SPEECH TO RCP PELNUM,  
CEAUSESCU DWELT AT LENGTH ON INTERNAL ISSUES SUCH AS  
NEED TO SHIFT LABOR FORCE INTO MORE PRODUCTIVE SECTORS  
OF ECONOMY (SETTING GOAL OF 50-60,000 SHIFT THIS YEAR  
ALONE), PRODUCTION-ORIENTED SCHOOL REFORMS, LESSENING  
OF STATE "REPRESSION" AS EXEMPLIFIED BY RECENT AMNESTIES  
OF YOUNG AND MINOR CRIMINALS, AND DECENTRALIZATION  
OF CULTURAL AND MEDIA CENSORSHIP. IMPLEMENTATION  
OF ABOVE REFORMS IS LIKELY TO BE CONFUSING, COMPLICATED  
AND INCOMPLETE, BUT WILL BE HAILED BY RCP AS  
FURTHER ROMANIAN ADVANCE TOWARDS COMMUNISM. END SUMMARY.

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2. JUNE 29 RCP PLENUM APPROVED 1978 ECONOMIC AND  
SOCIAL PLAN AND BUDGET, PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED WAGE  
INCREASES AND PENSION CHANGES, AND RECENT PENAL  
AND EDUCATIONAL REFORMS. IT ALSO ADOPTED DECISION  
ON REORGANIZATION OF PRESS, MEDIA AND CULTURAL  
ORGANIZATIONS. NATIONAL PARTY CONFERENCE IS SET

FOR FIRST HALF OF DECEMBER. IN HIS SPEECH  
CEAUSESCU CONCENTRATED ON FOLLOWING DOMESTIC  
TOPICS:

3. MASSIVE LABOR SHIFTS. PRESIDENT NOTED 9 BILLION  
LEI SHORTFALL IN INVESTMENT SO FAR THIS YEAR, BUT  
REFUSED ACCEPT EXCUSE THAT THIS DUE TO 25,000  
LABOR/MAN-POWER SHORTAGE. HE  
CALLED FOR MASSIVE TRANSFER OF WORK FORCE FROM  
NON-PRODUCTIVE "AUXILIARY SERVICES" (READ BUREAU-  
CRACY) TO PRODUCTION-ORIENTED TASKS SUCH AS  
INDUSTRIAL AND HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, NOTING THAT  
ONE OF THREE IN NON-PRODUCTIVE SECTORS COULD BE  
TRANSFERRED WITHOUT ANY LOSS BEING FELT. HE  
ALSO CRITICIZED ORGANIZATION OF AGRICULTURAL  
WORK FORCE, NOTING IT SHOULD NOT BE DEPENDENT  
UPON OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE FROM BUCHAREST OR MILITARY.  
HE SET GOAL OF 50160,000 MAN SHIFT OF WORK  
FORCE FOR THIS YEAR ALONE. (COMMENT: AS EXAMPLE,  
WE ARE TOLD THAT SOME 1,000 TEACHERS AND STAFF AT  
BUCHAREST UNIVERSITY WILL SHORTLY LOSE THEIR JOBS,  
WHILE RCP PARTY SECRETARY POPESCU LAST WEEK INFORM-  
ED RADIO AND TV STAFF THAT SOME 400 THERE WILL BE  
LET GO. REPORTEDLY MINISTRIES AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS  
HAVE THREE WEEKS TO MAKE THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS IN  
THIS REGARD.)  
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4. EDUCATIONAL REFORMS. WHILE NOTING THAT  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION WAS SIX MONTHS LATE  
WITH ITS PROPOSALS ON SCHOOL REORGANIZATION,  
CEAUSESCU NEVERTHELESS PRAISED THEM. NEW REFORMS  
ANNOUNCED AT JUNE 22 POLEXCO SESSION WILL FURTHER  
TIE SCHOOLING TO FUTURE EMPLOYMENT OR TRADE, WHILE  
ACCENTUATING EMPHASIS ON TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION AS  
OPPOSED TO LIBERAL ARTS. DRAFT DECREE HAS NOT YET  
APPEARED.

5. PENAL REFORM. CEAUSESCU EMPHASIZED LESSENING  
OF STATE'S REPRESSIVE SIDE AS DISCIPLINARY  
AND GUIDANCE TASKS ARE INCREASINGLY TAKEN OVER BY  
COLLECTIVE GROUPS IN SOCIETY. HE CITED RECENT  
AMNESTY AND PENAL RFORMS (BUCHAREST 4087,  
3410) AS EXAMPLE. IN ADDITION HE PROPOSED FURTHR  
"AMNESTY" WHICH WOULD DO AWAY WITH PRESENT REQUIREMENT  
THAT THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED PRISON TERMS CARRY SPECIAL  
IDENTIFICATION. PRAISING REEDUCATION THROUGH WORK,  
HE CITED WASTE OF "TENS OF THOUSANDS WHO PASS THROUGH  
JAIL EACH YEAR" AND NOTED THAT CONTROL BY WORK

COLLECTIVE WAS MORE BENEFICIAL THAN THAT OF "ANY REEDUCATION CENTER SUBORDINATED TO MINISTRY OF INTERIOR". IN HIS SUBSEQUENT SPEECH MINISTER OF INTERIOR COMAN CLAIMED THAT 20,000 HAVE ALREADY BENEFITED FROM RECENT AMNESTIES. CEAUSESCU ALSO STRONGLY ATTACKED STALIN'S THESIS THAT STATE WILL NOT "WITHER AWAY", BUT WOULD BECOME STRONGER AS COMMUNISM APPROACHED, CALLING THIS ANTI-MARXIST AND ANTI-SCIENTIFIC. (COMMENT: WE ARE TOLD THAT AT A RECENT SESSION WITH FACULTY AT STEFAN GHEORGHIU ACADEMY PARTY SECRETARY BURTICA CALLED "DISTATORSHIP OF PROLETARIAT" ANTI-HUMANIST AND OUT-MODED. HE IS SAID TO HAVE ORDERED SCHOLARS TO DEVELOP RATIONALE FOR DOING AWAY WITH CONCEPT. THIS IS A CHANGE IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GOR POSITION FROM THAT TAKEN WHEN FRENCH COMMUNISTS DECIDED ALSO TO DROP TERM IN 1976, BUT IN LINE WITH RECENT SOVIET DECISION TO DROP CONCEPT FROM NEW CONSTITUTION. HE ALSO REPORTEDLY EXPRESSED DISSATISFACTION WITH SECURITY APPARATUS AND NOTED THAT ABOVE PENAL REFORMS WOULD PROVIDE BASIS FOR ITS REDUCTION IN SIZE.)

6. DECENTRALIZATION OF CENSORSHIP. IN A MEASURE HINTED AT IN HIS RECENT SPEECH TO WRITERS' UNION, CEAUSESCU CALLED FOR DISMANTLING OF CENTRALIZED CENSORSHIP APPARATUS (COMMITTEE FOR PRESS AND PRINTING) AND DECENTRALIZATION OF ITS DUTIES TO INDIVIDUAL PUBLISHING HOUSES, WRITERS' UNION OR NEWSPAPERS. RESPECTIVE INSTITUTIONS WILL NOW ESTABLISH "LEADERSHIP COUNCILS" RESPONSIBLE FOR POLITICAL CONTENT OF WHATEVER IS PRINTED, SHOWN OR PUBLISHED. AS CEAUSESCU HIMSELF NOTES, "CONTROL IS NOT BEING ELIMINATED, ONLY A CERTAIN TYPE OF BUREAUCRATIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL, WHILE WE STRENGTHEN THE POLITICAL CONTROL AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PARTY".

7. IN MOST INTERESTING OF SECONDARY SPEECHES AT PLENUM, WRITER TITUS POPOVICI VICIOUSLY ATTACKED NICOLAE BERBAN'S LATEST BOOK, A BOOK WHICH WAS SPECIFICALLY APPROVED FOR PUBLICATION BY PARTY SECRETARY FOR CULTURE AND IDEOLOGY BURTICA. BERBAN ALSO SERVED AS GO-BETWEEN FOR ROMANIAN DISSIDENT PAUL GOMA AND BURTICA, AND IS CRITICIZED BY POPOVICI FOR "MAKING WAVES".

8. COMMENT: AS USUAL, IMPLEMENTATION OF ABOVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REFORMS WILL BE CONFUSING, CAPRICIOUS AND INCOMPLETE.  
NEVERTHELESS, THE EFFORT WILL BE HAILED AS ANOTHER  
EXAMPLE OF ROMANIAN PROGRESS TOWARDS COMMUNISM, AND  
CONTRASTED WITH SELECTED PROBLEMS OF THE OLD CAPITALIST ORDER.  
BARNES

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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